

Who to Contact for Your Area:

Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council - Regional Representatives

Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Region

Assoc. of Village Council Presidents

Myron Naneng

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Fax: 907-543-3596

E-mail: mnaneng@avcp.org

Bristol Bay Region

Bristol Bay Native Association

Ralph Andersen

P.O. Box 310

Dillingham, AK 99576

Tel: 907/842-5257; Fax: 907/842-5932

E-mail: randers@bbna.com

Gulf of Alaska Region

Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Gary Kompkoff

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Tatitlek, AK 99603

Tel: 907/325-2311

E-mail: uppasboy@yahoo.com

Upper Copper River Region

Cooper River Native Association

Joeneal Hicks

Box 241

Gakona, AK 99586

Tel: 907/822-3503; Fax: 907/822-5179

E-mail: jhicks@cheeshna.com

Bering Straits/Norton Sound Region

Kawerak Inc.

Austin Ahmasuk

Box 948

Nome, AK 99762

Tel: 907/443-5231, Fax: 443-4452

E-mail: sub.rec@kawerak.org

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Region

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association

Peter Devine

c/o Qagan Tayagungin Tribal Office

Sand Point, AK 99661

Tel: 907/383-5616, Fax: 907/383-5814

Kodiak Archipelago Region

Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak

Herman Squartsoff

P.O. Box 189

Ouzinkie, AK 99644

Tel: 907/680-2332, Fax: 680-2332

Email: sicharters@hotmail.com

Northwest Arctic Region

Maniilaq Association

Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

Box 256

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Tel: 907/442-7690; Fax: 907/442-7678

E-mail: eshiedt@maniilaq.org

North Slope Region

North Slope Borough

Taqulik Hepa

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, AK 99723

Tel: 907/852-0350; Fax: 907/852-0351/8948

E-mail: Taqulik.Hepa@north-slope.org

Interior Region

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Michael Smith

122 First Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Tel: 907/452-8251ext. 3256; fax: 907/459-3851

E-mail: michael.smith@tananachiefs.org

Southeast Alaska

Southeast Alaska Intertribal Fish &

Wildlife Commission

Gordon Jackson

320 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite 300

Juneau, AK 99801

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General Overview

This booklet is a simplified, informative summary of the 2006 Alaska subsistence spring/summer migratory bird harvest regulations contained in 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 92. There may be errors or omissions that have not been identified and regulatory changes that occur after printing. This booklet is intended as an informational guide only. To be certain of current regulations, refer to the official Code of Federal Regulations and the Federal Register publications, with pertinent parts available at the website <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/regulations.htm>

These regulations will become effective upon publication of the Final Rule in the Federal Register. These regulations apply to the spring and summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska, **valid April 2 through August 31, 2006**. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (Council) reviews and recommends needed modifications of these regulations on an annual basis.

Migratory bird hunting from September 1, 2006 through March 10, 2007 is managed under separate Federal regulations in 50 CFR Part 20 and State regulations in 5AAC.

For More Information Contact: Office of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 201, Anchorage, AK 99503

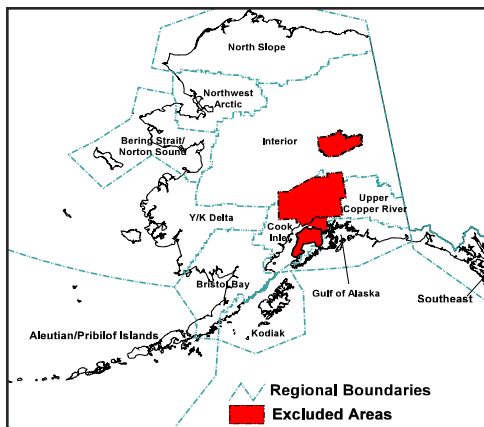
Voice: toll-free (877) 229-2344, Fax: (907) 786-3641, Email: ambcc@fws.gov

Who is Eligible to Participate?

If you are a **permanent** resident of a village within an included harvest area, you are eligible to harvest migratory birds and eggs for subsistence purposes.

Included Areas/Villages

Village areas located within the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, or in areas north and west of the Alaska Range are subsistence harvest areas. The communities of: Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, Copper Center, Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Chistochina, Tatitlek, Chenega, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Tyonek and Hoonah were added in 2004. The communities of Craig, Hydaburg and Yakutat were added in 2005.



Excluded areas

Persons living in the Anchorage-Matanuska-Susitna or Fairbanks North Star boroughs, or the Kenai Peninsula roaded area are excluded from participating. In the Gulf of Alaska, Copper River Region, Cook Inlet or Southeast Alaska, only residents of previously listed included communities can participate in the harvest.

Anyone can petition the Council to change a community's exclusion/inclusion status. The petition must address how the area does or does not meet the qualifying criteria for inclusion. Upon receipt, the Council will seek regional input and submit a recommendation to the Service Regulations Committee to either include or exclude the community from the subsistence harvest.

Subsistence Harvest Areas

All lands within the included areas are open for harvest, although special requirements apply to National Park Service lands, as explained below.

Special Requirements for NPS Lands

Subsistence use on National Park Service lands is restricted to only those national monuments, parks, and preserves open to subsistence. Glacier Bay National Park, Katmai National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, "old" McKinley National Park and Sitka National Historical Park are closed to subsistence. National Park Service regulations govern which communities or individual residents qualify to subsistence harvest for specific National Parks and Monuments (50 CFR Part 13, Subparts A, B, and C). For more information about National Park Service lands contact: National Park Service, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 257-2649.

Use and Possession of Migratory Birds

You may not sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase migratory birds, their parts, or eggs.

- **Eligible persons.** You may take birds for human consumption only. Harvest and possession of birds must be done using nonwasteful taking. Nonedible byproducts of birds taken for food may be used for other purposes, except that **taxidermy is not allowed**.
- **Noneligible persons.** You may receive portions of birds or their eggs not kept for human consumption from eligible persons only if you have a valid U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permit for scientific research or education.

Required Licenses and Stamps

Eligible subsistence users must possess and comply with any licenses or stamps required by Federal and State regulations when participating in the subsistence spring/summer migratory bird harvest. All waterfowl hunters 16 years or older are required to have current State and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps. Hunters 60 years or older and those that qualify for a low income license are not required to have a State Stamp. Federal stamps are available at most post offices, National Wildlife Refuge offices, and some stores; or may be purchased by calling: 1-800-852-4897 or online at <http://www.duckstamp.com>. State stamps are available from most State license vendors, ADF&G offices or online at: <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license>. Both Federal and State stamps must be signed in ink across the face and must be carried at all times while hunting waterfowl and are not required for hunting non-waterfowl species.

Prohibited Harvest Methods and Means

You may not use the following devices and methods to harvest migratory birds:

- Swivel guns, shotguns larger than 10 gauge, punt guns, battery guns, machine guns, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, or stupefying substances
- Shooting from a sinkbox or low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water
- Hunting from any type of aircraft
- Using live birds as decoys, except for auklets on Diomedes or St. Lawrence islands
- Hunting with the aid of recorded bird calls
- Using any type of vehicle, aircraft, or boat to concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up any migratory birds, except boats may be used to position a hunter
- The possession or use of lead or other toxic shot while hunting all migratory birds
- Shooting from or across any road or highway
- Using an air boat or jet ski for hunting or transporting hunters (Interior & Bristol Bay Regions only)
- Using private or chartered aircraft for hunting or transporting hunters, except for transportation between public airstrips (Yukon/Kuskokwim Region Only)

Shooting Hours

The harvest is open 24-hours per day during the dates listed under each region.

Region-Specific Regulations (Open Seasons)

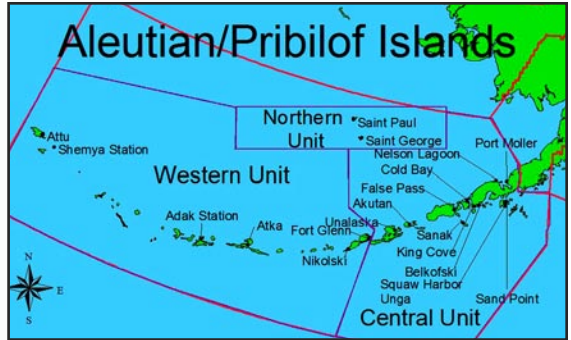
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Region

Northern Unit (Pribilofs)

Season: April 2-June 30

Closure: July 1-Aug. 31

Central Unit (Port Moller [Alaska Peninsula] west to include Unalaska Is)



Special Tundra Swan Closure: all hunting and egg gathering closed in Units 9(D) & 10.

Special Black Brant Season Closure: August 16 - August 31, only in Izembek and Moffet lagoons.

Season: April 2- June 15 and July 16 - August 31

Closure: June 16 - July 15

Western Unit (Umnak Island west to include Attu Island)

Season: April 2 - July 15 and August 16 - August 31.

Closure: July 16 -
August 15.

Interior Region

Season: April 2 - June 14 and
July 16 - August 31

May 1 - June 14 for egg
gathering only

Closure: June 15 - July 15

Note: Fairbanks-North Star Borough closed and residents are not eligible to hunt elsewhere.



Northwest Arctic Region

Seasons:

- April 2- June 9, Aug. 15 - Aug 31
(hunting - in general)
- May 20 - June 9
for waterfowl egg gathering
- July 3 - July 12
for seabird egg gathering
- July 1 - July 31
for hunting molting/non-nesting waterfowl

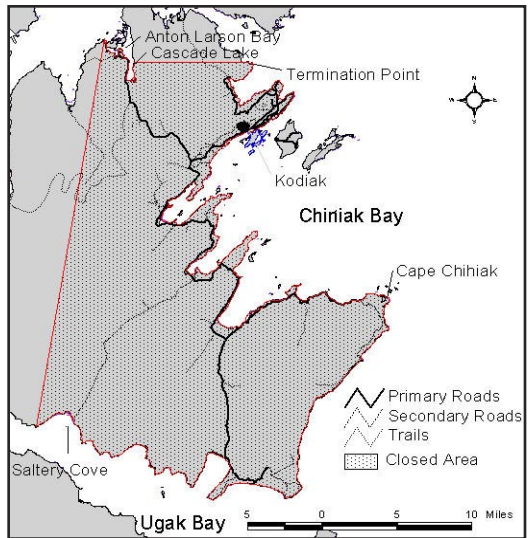


Closure: Anytime other than the above listed seasons

Kodiak Archipelago Region

Kodiak Island Roaded Area

Closure: the closed area consists of all lands and water (including exposed tidelands) east of a line extending from Crag Point in the north to the west end of Saltery Cove in the south and all lands and water south of a line extending from Termination Point along the north side of Cascade Lake extending to Anton Larson Bay. Marine waters adjacent to the closed area are closed to harvest within 500 feet from the water's edge. The offshore islands are open to harvest.



Season: April 2- June 20 and July 22 -Aug 31, general season
May 1 - June 20 for egg gathering

Closure: June 21 - July 21

Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Region

Season: April 2- August 31

Closure: 30-day closure

Dates to be announced*

Special Black Brant and
Cackling Goose Season

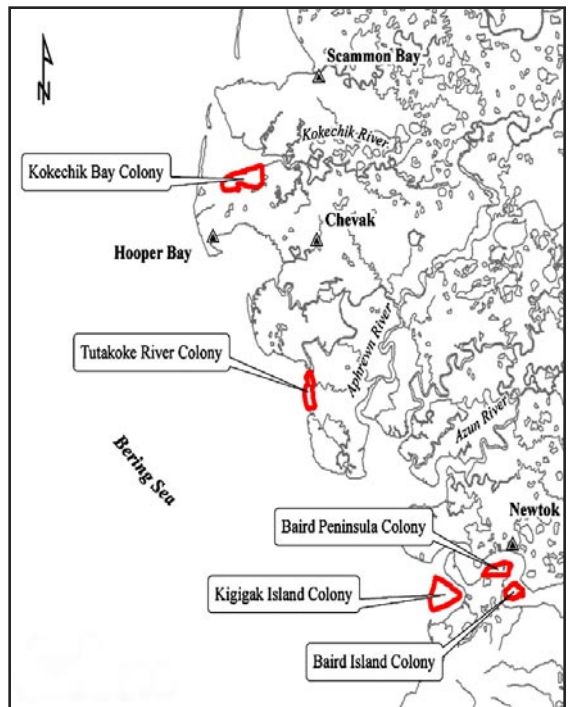
Closure: From the period
when egg laying begins until
young birds are fledged.
Dates to be announced*



Special Area Closure: The
following described goose
nesting colonies are closed to
all hunting and egg gathering
from the period of nest
initiation until young birds
are fledged: Dates to be
announced*

- Kokechik Bay Colony
- Tutakoke River Colony
- Kigigak Island Colony
- Baird Peninsula Colony
- Baird Island Colony

*ALL closure dates to be
announced by the U.S. Fish
& Wildlife Service Regional
Director or his designee,
after consultation with field
biologists and the Association
of Village Council Presidents's
Waterfowl Conservation
Committee.



Bristol Bay Region

Season: April 2- June 14 and July 16 - Aug 31
general season

April 2-July 15 for seabird egg gathering only

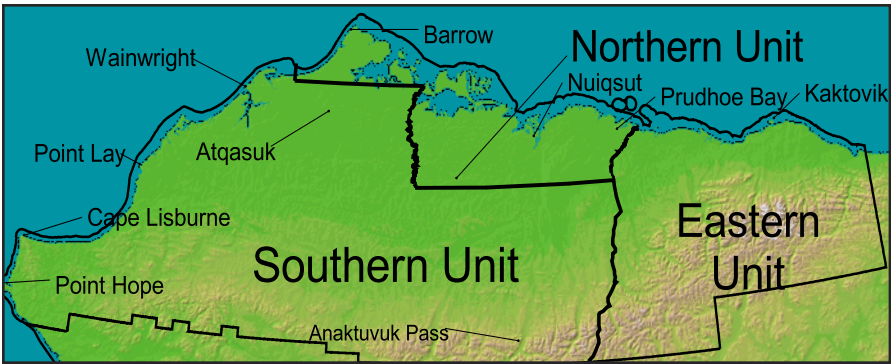
Closure: June 15 - July 15 general season

July 16 - August 31 for seabird egg gathering



North Slope Region

All Units: Yellow-billed loons - these loons may be caught inadvertently in fishing nets and kept for subsistence use. Individuals must report each yellow-billed loon caught to the North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife Mgt. by the end of the season.



Eastern Unit (East of east bank of the Sagavanirktok River)

Season: April 2 - June 19 and July 20 - August 31

Closure: June 20 - July 19

Southern Unit (Southwestern North Slope regional boundary east to Peard Bay, everything west of the longitude line 158°30'N and south of the latitude line 70°45'E to west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything south of the latitude line 69°45'E between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of Sagavinirktok River)

Season: April 2 - June 29 and July 30 - Aug 31 for seabirds
April 2 - June 19 and July 20 - Aug 31 for all other birds

Closure: June 30 - July 29 for seabirds and June 20 - July 19 for all other birds

Northern Unit (At Peard Bay, everything east of the longitude line 158°30'N and north of the latitude line 70°45'E to west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything north of the latitude line 69°45'E between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of the Sagavinirktok River)

Season: April 2-June 6 and July 7-August 31 for king & common eiders
April 2 - June 15 and July 16 - August 31 for all other birds

Closure: June 7- July 6 for king & common eiders
June 16 - July 15 for all other birds

Bering Strait/Norton Sound Region

Stebbins/St. Michael Area (Point Romanof to Canal Point)

Season: April 15
- June 14 and July 16
- August 31

Closure: June 15
- July 15



Remainder of the region

Season: April 2 - June 14 and July 16 - Aug 31 for waterfowl
April 2 - July 19 and August 21 - August 31 for all other birds

Closure: June 15 - July 15 for waterfowl
July 20 - August 20 for all other birds

Gulf of Alaska Region

Prince William Sound Area

Harvest area: Unit 6 (D)

Eligible communities: Chenega Bay and Tatitlek

Season: April 2 - May 31 and July 1 - Aug 31

Closure: June 1 - 30

Kachemak Bay Area

Harvest area: Unit 15[C]

South of a line connecting the tip of Homer Spit to the mouth of Fox River

Eligible Communities: Port Graham, Nanwalek

Season: April 2 - May 31 and July 1 - August 31.

Closure: June 1 - 30.



Cook Inlet

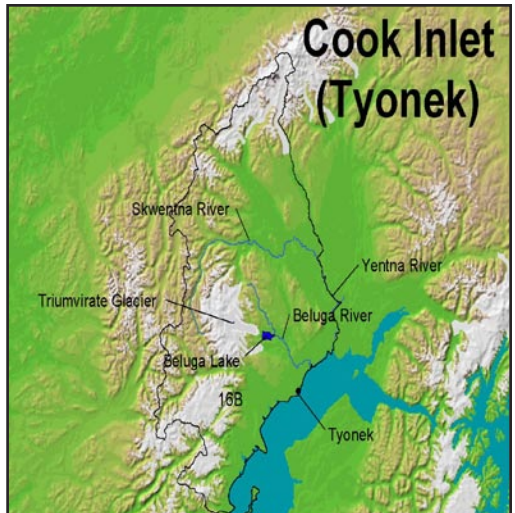
Harvest Area: portions of Unit 16(B)

Eligible community: Tyonek

Season: April 2-May 31: That portion of Unit 16(B) south of the Skwentna River and west of the Yentna River and

August 1-31: That portion of Unit 16(B) south of the Beluga River, Beluga Lake, and the Triumvirate Glacier.

Closure: June 1 - July 31



Upper Copper River Region

Harvest Area: State of Alaska
Game Management Units 11 and 13

Eligible communities: Gulkana,
Chitina, Tazlina, Copper Center,
Gakona, Mentasta Lake,
Chistochina and Cantwell

Season: April 15 - May 26 and
June 27 - August 31.

Closure: May 27 - June 26.



Note: The Copper River Basin Communities listed above are also eligible to hunt in Unit 12 using the Interior Region seasons.

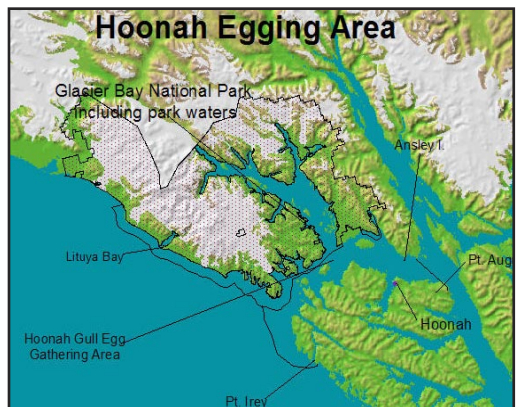
Regulations for

Communities Restricted to Egg Gathering Only

Southeast Alaska Region

Community of Hoonah

Harvest area: National Forest lands in Icy Strait and Cross Sound including Middle Pass Rock near the Inian Islands, Table Rock in Cross Sound, and other traditional locations on the coast of Yakobi Island. All lands and waters within Glacier Bay National Park are closed to harvest.



Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15 - June 30

Closure: July 1 - August 31

Communities of Craig and Hydaburg

Harvest area: small islands west of Prince of Wales Island within Unit 2; including Warren Island south to Cape Chacon

Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15 - June 30

Closure: July 1 - August 31

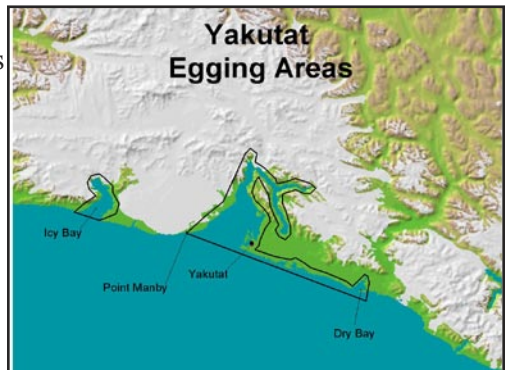


Community of Yakutat

Harvest area: Icy Bay [Icy Cape to Pt. Riou], and coastal lands and islands bordering the Gulf of Alaska from Pt. Manby southeast to and including Dry Bay.

Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15 - June 30

Closure: July 1 - August 31



Report Your Bird Bands!

Take the time to report any bird bands found on your harvested birds. These markers give biologists a wealth of information on bird movements, timing, life span, migration routes and much more. You will receive a thank-you certificate including information on the history of your bird. You do not have to give up the band to make a report. Simply call toll-free 1-800-327-BAND (2236) with the band number or go to the website: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/call800.htm> or report it to your nearest ADF&G or National Wildlife Refuge office.



Participate in Your Subsistence Harvest Surveys!

Why do we need subsistence harvest information?

- Accurate numbers of migratory birds harvested over time is essential to help the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and regional groups make management recommendations for the spring/summer harvests.
- Harvest survey information from both Alaska subsistence hunters and hunters nationally, is an important part of managing migratory bird populations.

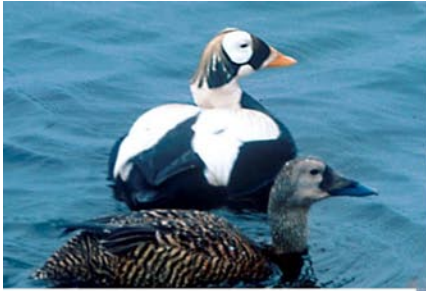


Taking pride in murre egg gathering
USFWS Historic Photo

Why is it important to turn your forms in?

- Not turning in your forms when you don't take any birds or just take a few, can make estimated harvest for your village too high. On the other hand, not turning in your forms, when you do take a lot of birds, can make estimated harvest for your village too low. To do the best job of managing migratory birds and to accurately document your traditional dependence on migratory birds, you don't want the high or low number. You want the real number.
- For shorebirds and seabirds, knowing subsistence harvests helps us work with other countries to manage these birds internationally.

Migratory birds closed for subsistence hunting and egg gathering



Spectacled Eiders

qaugeq, qavaasuk
lyegaatelek



Steller's Eiders

caqiar, caqiaraq
ijniquauqtuq, aglekesegaq
igniquauqtuq



Emperor Geese

nacaullek, leghlleq
ligliqpak
mitilgruaq



Aleutian Cackling Geese

(Closed on the
Semidi Islands Only)

Migratory birds closed for subsistence hunting and egg gathering



Tundra Swan
(Closed in Units 9D
and 10 only)



Yellow-billed Loon
tuullik, tuutlik
nangqwaalek

**Closed in all
regions - See
exception in
North Slope
regulations**

Migratory birds closed for egg gathering



Cackling Geese
tuutangayak
tuutangayagpak
lagiq, iqsragutilik

**Brant closed only in
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
North Slope**



Black Brant
neqlernaq, leqlernaq
laqeciagaq, niglingaq

Migratory Birds Open for Harvest

You may harvest birds or gather eggs from the following species within all open regions, except southeast Alaska.

Waterfowl

- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Lesser Canada Goose
- Taverner’s Cackling Goose
- Aleutian Cackling Goose - except closed in the Semidi Islands
- Cackling Goose - except no egg gathering is permitted anywhere.
- Black Brant - except no egg gathering in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the North Slope.
- Tundra Swan - except closed in Units 9(D) and 10.
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck.
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow’s Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser

- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser

Waterbirds

- Red-throated Loon
- Arctic Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Yellow-billed Loon - Open only in the Noth Slope region - See regional regulations for details on harvest limitations and reporting requirements.
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe

Seabirds

- Northern Fulmar
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Mew Gull
- Herring Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Sabine’s Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Red-legged Kittiwake
- Ivory Gull
- Arctic Tern
- Aleutian Tern
- Common Murre
- Thick-billed Murre
- Black Guillemot

Shorebirds

- Black-bellied Plover
- Common Ringed Plover
- Black Oystercatcher
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Wilson's Snipe
- Red Phalarope
- Red-necked phalarope

Seabirds (Cont.)

- Pigeon Guillemot
- Cassin's Auklet
- Parakeet Auklet
- Least Auklet
- Whiskered Auklet
- Crested Auklet
- Rhinoceros Auklet
- Horned Puffin
- Tufted Puffin

Cranes

- Sandhill Crane

Owls

- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl



Conservation through Co-Management:

Trumpeter Swans are not open for harvest.

Legislative History

As early as 1916, Migratory Bird Treaties with Canada and Mexico failed to recognize Alaska's traditional spring/summer subsistence harvest. After years of negotiations, the treaties were amended in 1997 to recognize this customary and traditional harvest. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council was created, which included representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners. The Council's primary purpose is to develop recommendations for the subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations. Eleven regional management bodies were created to provide local input to the Council on the bird harvest list, regional season dates, methods and means and other annual regulatory recommendations. Additional information on the Migratory Bird Treaties, the Council, harvest surveys, press releases and hunter bulletins can be found at: <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/index.htm>

Definitions

Eligible person means a permanent resident of an included village within a subsistence harvest area.

Immediate family means spouse, children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, and siblings.

Game Management Unit, also referred to as Unit, means 1 of the 26 geographical areas listed in the codified State of Alaska hunting and trapping regulations and on maps of the Alaska State Game Management Units.

Non-wasteful taking means making a reasonable effort to retrieve all birds killed or wounded, and retaining such birds in possession from the place where taken to the hunter's permanent or temporary place of residence, or to the location where the birds will be consumed or preserved for food.

Permanent resident means any person whose primary, permanent home for the previous 12 months was within a subsistence harvest area in Alaska. Whenever absent from this primary permanent home, the person has the intention of returning to it. Factors demonstrating a person's primary, permanent home may include: the address on your Alaska Permanent Fund application; an Alaska driver's license or hunting/fishing license; voter registration; location of residences owned, rented or leased residence of spouse, minor children or dependents; tax documents; not claiming residence in another location for any purpose; or membership of a tribe in a subsistence harvest area.

Seabirds refers to all bird species within the families Alcidae, Laridae, Procellariidae, and Phalacrocoracidae (in general: gulls, kittiwakes, jaegers, murre, puffins, auklets, fulmars and cormorants).

Shorebirds refers to all bird species within the families Charadriidae, Haematopodidae, and Scolopacidae (in general: sandpipers, plovers, oystercatchers, dunlin, godwits, turnstones, knots, and phalaropes).

Subsistence means the customary and traditional harvest or use of migratory birds and their eggs by eligible users for their own nutritional and other essential needs.

Subsistence harvest areas encompass customary and traditional hunting areas or villages in Alaska that qualify for a spring or summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

Taxidermy refers to birds preserved and mounted in life-like representations. Taxidermy does not include preserving bird parts to be integrated into traditional arts and crafts, such as use of skin or feathers for the making of clothing or ceremonial fans.

Waterfowl refers to all species within the family Anatidae (in general: ducks, geese, swans).

Village (or Community) is defined as a permanent settlement with one or more year-round residents.

Asian H5N1 Virus (Bird Flu)

What is bird flu?

“Bird Flu” is a general term for avian influenza viruses that occur naturally in birds with most types not harming birds or people. Asian H5N1 however, is a very serious type of bird virus that has been deadly to domestic birds. Infected birds can pass it to other birds – including wild migrating birds. Asian H5N1 began to spread in Southeast Asia where a small number of people caught it from close contact with heavily infected chickens. It is now spreading to birds in many countries, but has not yet been found in Alaska or North America.

Do we have Asian H5N1 bird flu in Alaska?

Not yet – but it’s possible that it could arrive with birds that return to Alaska from Asia this spring and summer. We don’t know whether wild birds can carry Asian H5N1 over long distances or how long the virus will survive in different birds.

Can we get bird flu from the birds we hunt and eat?

We don’t know for sure. So far, Asian H5N1 is rarely infectious to humans. Only a small number of people have caught it from domestic birds, such as chickens. No one has been infected with Asian H5N1 from wild birds. Wild birds have many kinds of bird flu and those viruses are spread mainly through their droppings (anaq), but we know that viruses die quickly when they dry out or are heated. So, hunters and other people who handle wild birds should avoid contact with fresh bird droppings, handle birds cleanly, and cook the birds they eat.

Can we get bird flu from the eggs or berries we gather?

Bird flu viruses are found in bird droppings, so they could be on the outside of eggs—but even if mother birds are infected with bird flu, the virus is not inside eggs. Washing eggs is always a good idea, and cooking eggs kills viruses and bacteria that cause illness. There is very little chance that bird droppings are on berries, but it is a good practice to wash berries too.

Can we get bird flu from store-bought chicken?

No. Most of the chicken and turkey in stores comes from farms in North America where Asian H5N1 has not been found. Farms in the United States and Canada and the meat they produce are regularly inspected and tested for viruses—especially now. In addition, no birds, poultry meat or eggs are allowed in the United States from infected areas of the world.

Asian H5N1 Virus (Bird Flu)

How worried should we be?

There is a very low risk of getting the current Asian H5N1—so you don't need to stop hunting or gathering eggs to stay safe. Remember—it has not been found in North America, it is rarely infectious to people, and nobody has caught it from a wild bird. We can avoid this virus by following the guidelines below—use clean hunting habits, wash eggs, and cook the foods we get from birds.

- Don't handle birds that appear sick or you find dead.
- Use rubber gloves when cleaning birds.
- Don't eat, drink or smoke while cleaning birds; keep dirty hands away from your face and mouth.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, alcohol wipes, or gel after cleaning birds.
- Clean all tools and surfaces with hot soapy water first, then disinfect using water mixed with 10% chlorine bleach.
- Keep dead birds cool, clean and dry.
- Cook your birds thoroughly (165 degrees F) or juices run clear.

What is being done about bird flu in Alaska?

Wildlife agencies in Alaska and across the U.S. and Canada are coordinating the sampling of thousands of birds for Asian H5N1 this spring and summer. The testing of birds in many parts of rural Alaska will start this spring. You may notice numerous people testing live birds and subsistence caught birds. Please cooperate in any way requested and feel free to ask questions. Rural subsistence users would likely be the first to notice sick or dying wild birds. Please help our monitoring effort, by reporting any of these observations.

Contact Information

If you find dead or sick wild birds, and no cause is obvious, such as hitting a power line or building, call toll-free **1-866-5BRDFLU (1-866-527-3358)**. Please note the location, species of bird, and the date and time that you found them. Do not handle any sick or dead birds you find.

Final Note: the avian influenza information is constantly changing.

See: http://alaska.fws.gov/media/avian_influenza/index.htm for updates.